ARCHITECTURAL QUERIES.

MEETING AT METZ.

Dr. Bromby has favoured us with a programme of the questions which will be submitted to the French Archæological Congress, to be held this year at Metz, commencing on the 1st of June, already alluded to in The Builder. We print such of them as are generally suggestive.—The readiest way to Metz is from Dover to Ostend, and thence by rail to Namur, whence by diligence to Luxemburg and Metz, in three or four days from London.

1. Is it not possible to ascertain in churches of pointed architecture, the numerical relation of their several portions, and a geometrical deduction of their architectonic forms?

2. Do not the ecclesiastical monuments of the middle ages prove the existence of an architectonic hierarchy by which all cathedrals, and abbatial and parochial churches, and even private chapels, were severally built according to certain dispositions and dimensions?

3. Is not the pointed or *ogival* style better indicated by the presence of pinnacles than by pointed arches?

4. May we not trace the progress of the styles of Gothic architecture by the technical terms employed in architectural documents of different epochs?

5. What are the distinctive characters between the pointed styles of France and those of Germany? and is not the cathedral at Metz an example of transition between two varieties of that style?

6. Was there not in each of the dioceses of Metz, Trèves, Strasbourg, and Verdun, a special architectonic school? and if so, what were their distinctive characters?

7. What were the monuments which served as the prototypes of those churches with a choir at each end, so frequently met with in Germany?

8. If, as supposed, there was some absolute rule for building churches due east and west, how can we explain the numerous exceptions to such rule observable in Lorraine and about Metz?

9. What is the origin of the little gallery so commonly found on the outside of Germano-Romanesque churches?

10. Were not the masonic lodges, which are sometimes found in the close vicinity of cathedrals, dependent on cathedral government, and were the masters of such lodges priests or laymen?

11. In the architectonic decoration of Gothic churches, should not the disposition of their statuary be under the architect's control, and considered as an integral part of his original design?

12. What kind of pavement was employed in the civil and ecclesiastical edifices of the middle ages?

13. What were the innovations in castellated buildings brought into western Europe after the first crusades?

14. Whether the houses of towns and villages of ancient times were not often built after the form of the large mansions in their vicinity?

15. What changes as to style did edifices built of wood undergo, and what are the analogies or differences of them and the styles of stone buildings?

16. What is now the most expedient form of church-building, whether considered artistically or economically?

17. What is the most fitting style of decoration for churches in the pointed style of architecture?

18. In what cases may we venture to repair ancient monuments, and according to what general rules should such repairs be conducted?

19. Must we admit as an axiom that ecclesiastical buildings should not in any way be washed over with colour, considering that occasionally the nature of their materials require some uniform tint?

20. What system should be adopted in newly paving such churches as have their old pavements so worn as absolutely to demand renewal?

21. In what proportion, and to what kind of edifices should be restricted the employment of coloured glass as church ornament?

The Strike.—According to the provincial journals, the strike is virtually at an end. Its disastrous effects will be felt for a long time to come.

THE ART-UNION QUESTION.

The final consideration of Mr. Wyse's bill is again postponed for a fortnight. A number of petitions have been forwarded to members of the two Houses for presentation, from various provincial bodies, including—The Royal Manchester Institution; the Manchester Association for the Advancement of the Fine Arts; the inhabitants of Reading, Macclesfield, Liverpool, Ashbourne (Derbyshire), Faversham, Southampton, Warrington, Darlington, Bury St. Edmunds, Fakenham, Lynn, and Leeds. They are all numerously signed by the principal inhabitants, including the clergy.

We extract the following remarks from an anonymous pamphlet on the subject, which has been recently circulated.

"It has been said, these societies encourage low art; this is not the case; they do exactly that which is wanting in the present state of society—lead the young aspirant on in his ambitious career, by purchasing some of the best pictures of ten, twenty, and thirty pounds value; most of which would probably be otherwise returned from the exhibitions to the poor young artist; to his mortification, and for lack of funds, often to his great distress also, if not to the necessity of abandoning the pursuit he has chosen and loves. These societies, therefore, encourage young merit, but not low art, in spending a portion of their funds in pictures of small price; and let it be asked, which of our present or past greatest artists, when young, have not been grateful to a purchaser who would give ten pounds or less for their works, the best their talents could then produce? The more numerous, and larger sums expended, go to reward maturer and matured art."

"The following quotation from an early letter of the late Sir Thomas Lawrence will illustrate the foregoing remarks; it would be useless to add a score more from other eminent artists, for—"*hoc genus omne*:"—

"Mr. Lawrence presents his respects to Lord George Lenox . . . . . Mr. L. has the honour of acquainting Lord George Lenox, that on the first week of next May, he raises the price of his pictures from fifteen to twenty guineas; but as he conceives himself to be under many obligations to his lordship, he begs to be *allowed* the pleasure of painting any of his family, or friends, that are for himself, at the original price that his lordship paid him, which he believes was ten guineas.

"He has the honour to be, Lord George Lenox's much obliged and most obedient servant,

"T. Lawrence.

"Jermyn-street, March 18th,"—(1787 or 88.)

The Right Honourable Lord George Lenox,

"Stoke, near Chichester, Sussex."

"Has the Chancellor of the Exchequer used this expression, *or to its exact effect?*—'You won't give me a lottery, by which I might benefit the revenue. Grant me that, and you may have as many Acts to establish art-unions as you like!' If so, he is not influenced by any moral sentiment in his present opinion respecting them."

"The chancellor of the Exchequer, to a deputation which waited on Sir Robert Peel, observed that he could not see why the cultivators of the fine arts should be more encouraged than makers of chairs and tables, a deputation from whom had just then been with him to argue the advantage it would be to their business, if they were allowed, by Parliament, to dispose of their furniture by lottery; and he could see no difference whatever between art-unions and makers of chairs and tables, that artists should be encouraged any more than these or other tradesmen! Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be a very clever calculator—he may know that ten chairs and ten tables make twenty pieces of furniture, or that ten pictures and ten pieces of sculpture make as many; but if he can see no difference between a chair and a statue, or a table and a picture, it is not very proper he should be allowed to offer another opinion on the subject of art."

Railway Speculation.—"What have you cleared by your railway speculation? said a gentleman, the other day, to one who had largely indulged his mania for scrip. "Cleared!" exclaimed the other, "faith, I've cleared my pocket."

EARL DE GREY'S ENTERTAINMENT TO THE ARCHITECTS.

On Friday, the 15th instant, Earl de Grey, as president of the Institute of Architects, invited a large party of the nobility, and men distinguished in science, literature, and art, to meet the members of that body. The council had previously dined with his lordship. About ten o'clock, his Royal Highness Prince Albert arrived, and was received by the Earl and Countess de Grey, and the honorary secretaries of the Institute, and was conducted round the rooms, the tables in which displayed some of the choicest specimens of the work of our best artists. Lord de Grey's *soirées* are distinguished by the presence of the fairer portion of the aristocracy, who on this occasion shone pre-eminently.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The foundation stone of St. Paul's Church, Hull, for the immediate erection of which builders have been invited to send in contracts, will probably be laid in the beginning of June. The windows of St. James's Church have been painted at the expense of Mr. John Malam, and the building has been cleansed, repaired, and altered, and its former defective ventilation much improved, by a few additional openings in the ceiling connected with apertures in the roof, by which the heated air is said to be now entirely carried off without occasioning any draught whatever. An extensive amphitheatre has been recently erected in Paragon-street. A new market, or an extension of the old market-place, is talked of. ——The Jephsonian Gardens at Leamington were formally opened on the 12th instant.—— Fretherne Church has been pulled down, to make way for a more commodious edifice.—— In excavating for foundations to the houses about to be erected in front of Maud's-hill-terrace, Lincoln, great numbers of stone coffins and human remains have been found. The site is that on which the battle between King Stephen and the Empress Maud was fought; and before the Reformation the churches of St. Faith, St. John, and St. Peter ad Placita, stood in the immediate vicinity. It is said that the old and decayed church of St. Benedict, Lincoln, is to be pulled down, and the parish united with that of St. Peter at Arches. ——The site for a new chapel of ease for 600 persons (one-half of the kneelings to be free) has been given at Cirencester, and 2,100*l.* have been subscribed towards its endowment, besides handsome donations promised towards the building fund; 2,000*l.* more will be requisite for the completion of the design.—— In the parish church of Loftus, in the North Riding, an allegorical monument to Major General Dundas has just been completed by Mr. Thomas Earle, of Hull and London. ——Mr. Robert Slade, of Poole, has presented to the new church at Twillingate, Newfoundland, a couple of ornamental tablets, with the decalogue, the creed, and the Lord's Prayer, inscribed; and also the set of brass chandeliers used in the church at Poole till the introduction of gas. Poole Harbour Improvement Bill, from non-compliance with some sessional order, has been lost for the present session. ——"While superintending the repairs of the town-hall at Yarmouth," says the *Ipswich Journal*, "the surveyor, on Tuesday last, thought it desirable to examine the lead and flooring on the portico, when, to his astonishment, he found the entire flooring had given way from pressure, and that the lead was supported only by the fastenings round. It will be in the recollection of many of our readers, that about five years ago a large vessel, the "Maria Soames," was launched from the yard of Mr. F. Preston, on which occasion a vast concourse of persons assembled to witness the imposing ceremony, and as many as could stand on the balcony of the portico of the town hall were admitted there. During the time, the mayor sent once or twice to see if the ceiling beneath appeared to bend or give way, not dreaming there was a vacancy of 4 or 5 feet between that and the floor above. It appears that from the great weight upon it, on the occasion above alluded to, some of the beams gave way, leaving the whole weight to be supported by the lead. Fortunately, no similar occurrence has transpired since, or we should have probably witnessed a catastrophe

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